2-7-04

CONCLUSION

For the reasons advanced above and those set forth in appellant's Brief on Appeal, appellant respectfully contends that the rejection of claims 1-5 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ness in view of Sisson further optionally taken with Austin et al. is improper because the examiner has not met his burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Reversal of the rejection on appeal is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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